27th November 1952]

Transfer of Communist political prisoners from Salem Jail.

* 168[a] Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state when the Communist political prisoners will be transferred from Salem Jail to their linguistic districts?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" The hon. Member is apparently referring to the ordinary convicted prisoners in the Central Jail, Salem, who are members of the Communist Party. The Government have since ordered the transfer of the Malayalam-speaking and Telugu-speaking prisoners among them to jails in their respective linguistic areas, namely, the Central Jails at Cannanore and Rajahmundry. The Tamil-speaking convicts will continue to be confined in the Central Jail, Salem, which is in the Tamil area."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Will the Government be pleased to release all the political prisoners? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" That is altogether a different question. This question relates to the transfer of Communist prisoners from the Salem Jail to some other jails. Out of that, how can the question of release of all prisoners arise? "

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Will the Government consider it desirable to release all the Communist prisoners, since their accredited leaders, most of them, are in the Assembly? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member may give notice of a separate question. This question relates to the transfer of prisoners."

Ramalingam Chettiar Retrenchment Committee.

* 170 Q.—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) when the Ramalingam Chettiar Retrenchment Committee was appointed;

(b) the terms of appointment;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the Committee;

(d) whether the Committee's recommendations were accepted and implemented by the Government to any extent; and

(e) what the savings are to the Government by such implementation?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) The Committee was appointed by a Government Order on 11th October 1947.

" (b) The terms of reference to the Committee were—

(1) effecting of economies in expenditure on new departments and appointments brought into existence during the war and after;

* Starred questions Nos. 168, 170 and 179 postponed from the list for 26th November 1952.

[27th November 1952

(2) re-organization of the departments in order to reduce cost and increase efficiency;

(3) amendment of the relevant rules, so as to expedite the procedure to be followed in regard to land acquisition, investigation and the preparation of estimates for irrigation works, rural water-supply schemes and departmental enquiries in disciplinary matters;

(4) examination of the system of grants-in-aid to various local bodies and private managements;

(5) re-organization of the pension system; and

(6) matters connected with (1) to (5) above and any other matter which may specifically be referred to the Committee.

"(*c*) Roughly a sum of Rs. 34,000 was incurred towards the pay, dearness allowance and other compensatory allowances for the staff connected with the Committee and towards travelling allowance to the members of the Committee.

As separate accounts were not maintained for all items relating to the expenditure on the Committee, the amount has been worked out approximately.

"(*d*) & (*e*) The attention of the Member is invited to the statement placed on the table of the House on the 19th December 1950, in answer to question No. 58 put by Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai, indicating that the saving resulting from the action taken on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee was about Rs. 1½ crores per annum, up to the 1st December 1950. These savings have been offset now by the increased expenditure consequent upon the expansion of the activities of the various departments, due to the sanction of new schemes in nation-building departments and to the undertaking of measures to increase food production. The question of effecting economies in the various departments under present conditions is engaging the attention of the Government."

10-40 a.m. SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Since the present members of the Assembly were not Members of the Assembly in November 1950, will the Hon. the Minister be pleased to lay a fresh copy of the recommendations of the Committee on the table of the House?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" If it is necessary, it will be supplied to any Member who wants it."

Encroachment on a pathway acquired for Harijans in Gudivada taluk.

* 179 *Q*.—SRI G. RAMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a pathway acquired for Harijans of Dondapadu village of Gudivada taluk was encroached upon by the adjacent ryots of the path;